ment of Electronics to finance an Information Technology Development and Diffusion Project in India; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. World Bank has initiated discussions to finalise an Information Technology Development and Diffusion Project in India.

(b) The overall project objective is to promote the effective use, diffusion and production of Information Technology in India through a demand-driven strategy with a mutually reinforcing set of instruments. Specificially, the project would:

(i) stimulate use of diffusion of Information Technology in key areas;

(ii) promote the growth of productivity of local software and information services industry; and

(iii) strengthen the enabling environments policy framework, infrastructure and capabilities.

Research report on Indian softwares

2301. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently received a research report from the Western countries about the Indian Softwares;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof,

(c) whether Government intends to export more Indian Software by improving its quality; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) A study was undertaken by the Department of Electronics with assistance from the World Bank to identify sectors, products and geographical market which the Indian Software Industry can exploit.

(b) The study has been completed covering an analysis of the Indian software scenario, demand analysis and opportunity assessment. It has also examined the strengths and weaknesses including productivity cost and quality of some of the competing countries. The study also addressed aspects related to training and education for building up a reservoir of software personnel.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government has already started a number of schemes for upgrading the quality of manpower and for validation and quality certification of software.

Foreign companies to set up computer and information related training institutes

2302. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow foreign companies to set up computer and information related training institutions;

(b) if so, the details of the foreign companies which have shown interest to set up their institutes in the country;

(c) whether the proposed foreign companies would have any impact on indigenous companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) There is no proposal

from any foreign company to set up computer and information related training institutes in the country.

(b to (d) Do not arise.

Rejection of VISAS to CBI Officers by Pakistan

2303. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan have rejected VISAS for C.B.I. officer enquiring into the kidnapping cases of diamond merchants of Bombay in Delhi, and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) While on 25 May, 1992, visas were granted to the CBI team, on 29 May, 1992, Pakistan sought postponement of the visit of the team stating that new dates for the visit would be indicated in due course. The CBI has sent reminders to Pakistan for expediting permission for the visit, but there is no response so far.

Visit of Indian High Commissioner to Jinnah House in Leicester

2304. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian High Commissioner visited Jinnah House when he visited Leicester a few months ago;

(b) if so, what was the purpose of his visit;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Indian High Commissioner met Muslims from Pakistan occupied Kashmir at the Jinnah House; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The High Commissioner visited the premises of the Leicester City Council, named Jinnah Centre, to meet a group organised by Mr. Keith Vaz, British MP from Leicester, which included Muslims from the sub-continent.

(d) The High Commissioner took the opportunity to brief his audience about India's secular democratic traditions and to convey that the real cause of the problem in Kashmir was Pakistan's support to militancy and terrorism.

पारपत्र कार्यालयों के विरुद्ध शिकायतें

2305. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव :** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को विगत में पारपत्रों के जारी न किए जाने और पारपत्र से संबंधित सेवाओं के बेहतर न होने के संबंध में शिकायतें मिली हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) पारपत्र कार्यालयों में समुचित इंतजाम बनाये रखने के लिए सरकार क्या प्रयास कर रही है?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० एल० भाटिया) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) अधिकतर शिकायतों में पासपोर्ट जारी करने में होने वाले विलम्ब का उल्लेख है ।

(ग) सरकार पासपोर्ट कार्यालयों में कर्मचारियों की संख्या बढ़ाने और कार्यप्रणाली को सुव्यवस्थित बनाने के लिए कदम उठा रही है ताकि आवेदनों में हो रही वृद्धि तथा कर्मचारियों की अपर्याप्त संख्या के कारण पासपोर्ट जारी करने में होने वाले विलम्ब को कम किया जा सके।